

Quarter Horse News

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“Portraits of a World Champion.”

By Megan Nelson



"Winning your first World Championship involves a mix of emotions, especially when your horse ties for first place and has to work off for the championship.

For Linda Werner, of Painted Valley Ranch, all she could do was watch from the stands. "I was doing a lot of praying," Werner said. "I was watching and praying and after it was finished all I did was cry."

The crying came when her mare, [DOX COLORED SMART](#), ridden by [Chubby Turner](#), marked a 219 to outscore Peponitas Top Gunner with Alan Crouch aboard. Werner didn't have much to lose. Her other horse, [FLYING PEPPY DELTA](#), ridden by Tom Lyons, was sitting second before the work off.

First or second isn't bad for the newcomer, who only stepped into the horse industry five years ago. (ASIDE: Linda has actually ridden and owned horses all her life.) Turner attributes the win on Dox Colored Smart to the connection that Werner and the mare developed. "She just had a bond with this horse and it seemed to work," Turner said. "About 45 days ago I didn't think that it was going to work."

But pre-show preparation helped Turner work out the kinks and show the mare to her potential. Werner fell in love with the mare she named "Cupcake" (because "she looks like a Hostess Cupcake and she is really sweet") when she saw her as a two-year-old in Turner's arena.

Turner finished riding the mare one day and told Werner to jump on for a ride. Werner was apprehensive to climb on the young horse, but soon after couldn't resist the mare's ability and charm.

After weeks of Werner's phone calls asking about the mare, Turner finally decided to get assertive and told Werner that she should buy the mare. The purchase was added to a collection of talent that Painted Valley Ranch was accumulating. In total, Werner's Painted Valley Ranch etched it's name into six cutting classes at the World Show.

[Punk Carter](#) rode [FLYIN IN GOLD](#) to place 10th in the Junior Cutting and [LITTLE SMART DART](#) in the Senior Cutting to place sixth. And Werner placed 9th in the Amateur cutting aboard [LITTLE SMART DART](#), along with Lyon's third place finish aboard [FLYING PEPPY DELTA](#).